

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
81059 HIGHWAY 70 BECKWOURTH, CA 96129
Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors
Einen Grandi, Chairman
Don Wallace, Vice-Chair
Dave Goicoechea, Director
Kevin Goss, Director
Greg Ramelli, Director
Jim Roberti, Director
Paul Roen, Director

MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Director Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Directors present: Grandi, Roberti, Goicoechea, Roen; Ramelli

Directors absent: Goss, Wallace

Also present: Gus Tolley, Tracey Ferguson, Bill Powers, Tania Carlone, Jay Huebert, and Greg Hinds.

2) PUBLIC HEARING

Adoption of an Ordinance Enacting a Management Charge for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

The Board of Directors will hear comments from the public regarding SVGMD's proposed ordinance to fix the management charge for the fiscal year 2020-2021 on all land within the District at \$.15 per acre, per year, with a total minimum charge of \$6.00 per year for all parcels or lots forty (40) acres or less, for the purposes of paying the costs of initiating, carrying on, and completing any of the powers, projects, and purposes for which the District is organized.

The public hearing opened at 6:06 PM

There was no public comment.

The public hearing closed at 6:07 PM

3) PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY – limited to 5 minutes per speaker

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Board of Directors at this time.

There was no public comment.

4) REPORTS

A. Meter Technician Report - Jay Huebert

Huebert reported that the monitoring well report shows dropping water levels now that many agriculture wells are being pumped, which is typical for June. The current levels are a little lower than they were a year ago, but there was not a wet winter this year. He has pulled the meter off of DMS14 at D&S Ranch and has sent it to Technoflo for repair. The 2" magmeter has been installed on the new Maddalena Holdings well.

B. Technical Support Services – Debbie Spangler

Director Roen made a motion to move to agenda item 5C, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

Spangler reported that the TSS application is being reviewed by DWR.

C. GSP Request for Proposals (RFP) Update

Tania Carlone shared the RFP procurement schedule with the Board: the final date for consultants to submit questions and requests for clarification regarding the District's RFP was June 5; responses to those questions were posted on the District's website on June 12; the RFP submission deadline is June 26; proposals will be given to the evaluation panel for review and independent scoring before the team meets to determine the top three proposals by July 10; interviews will be completed by July 17; the team will select the preferred contractor by July 24; and a professional services agreement will be presented to the Directors for approval at the August 17 board meeting.

Carlone has been contacted by several consulting firms, but she will not be joining any teams. She said it's really positive to be seeing so much interest. Some firms have told the District they will be unable to submit a proposal because of the quarterly invoicing requirement under Prop 68; that is a lot of money for firms to front and previously there was monthly invoicing.

Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, reported that she met with the board clerk to reconcile the grant's budget and scope. The GSP team and grant manager agreed to withhold up to \$200,000 from the grant for reimbursement of the work that has already been completed and future work to be done by the SVGMD and Plumas County.

5) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS

A. Plumas/Sierra County Well Permit Application Review (if any)

There were no new applications.

B. Unpaid Large-Capacity Well Management Charges

The board clerk was contacted by Bonnie Richards of Sierra Valley Enterprises, LLC (the new name of the Loyalton Cogen) asking for a new invoice for the 2019 large-capacity well management charges. Grandi talked to Jim Turner, who said there is a check ready to pay the invoice. The Board directed the clerk to charge for both metered wells.

C. Flow Meter Standardization

Huebert has been taking pictures and measurements of the flow meters that need to be replaced. There are ten that definitely need work and ten or so others that may need to be upgraded.

The District currently has one spare 10" meter, but Director Roberti thinks more should be ordered since there are available meter fee funds.

Director Ramelli made a motion to purchase one spare 8" meter and one spare 10" meter from Technoflo, Director Roberti 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

D. Audit with Blomberg and Griffin

Blomberg & Griffin Accounting Corporation has provided an independent audit proposal for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The proposal states: "Our fee for the above services is based on hourly rates ranging \$60 to \$95 per hour with maximum fee not to exceed \$4,275 for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2018 and 2019."

The audit will be conducted Wednesday, June 17 in Quincy at the Plumas County Auditor's Office.

Director Roen made a motion to approve the proposal, Director Ramelli 2nd, motion passed, Directors Grandi, Roberti, Ramelli, Roen and Goicoechea all in favor.

E. Updated Professional Services Agreement for Greg Hinds

Hinds informed the Board that he has been contacted by several interested firms, but he does not want to join a team and be locked into a schedule he cannot commit to. He feels more comfortable contracting with the District for short periods of time for a small number of hours each month. An updated professional services agreement will be brought back at the next meeting with a new scope of work and updated terms (one year contract with up to 16 hours of work per month).

F. Presentation: GSP Concept Document – Greg Hinds

Hinds gave a brief presentation on the completed GSP Concept Document. He will transfer the project folder to the board clerk, which will include documents like the IWFM model files and public records requests from the water master. Hinds read the introduction letter aloud to make clear the purpose of the Concept Document.

Director Goicoechea hopes everyone looks at the Concept Document because it's more than worthwhile and lays the groundwork to avoid something overwhelmingly complex and expensive. He thinks Hinds' counsel will be valuable moving forward and appreciates his work.

Director Roen wants RFP interested firms to know the Concept Document is available as it will be very helpful to them. Carlone responded that it was included in the RFP questions and answers and that it is available online.

G. Presentation: LESA System Provides Uncertain Efficiency Improvements for Alfalfa Irrigation, Sierra Valley – Phil Bachand

Phil Bachand gave his presentation to the Board regarding a one year irrigation study with cooperators Goodwin Ranch and Grandi Ranch. The study was conducted to look at the difference between two irrigation systems: standard (mid-elevation spray application) and LESA (low elevation spray application) by studying irrigation water used, irrigation application efficiency, soil moisture, and plant effects. The goal was to provide defensible, non-biased assessment of pivot technology.

6) CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Grant Davids, Davids Engineering – email to the District thanking them for the RFP notification, but informing the District of their inability to submit a proposal due to problematic terms in the proposed contract (10% retainer and quarterly invoicing).

Sierra County BOS – Notice of Public hearing to consider formation of a County Service Area Zone within County Service Area 4 to provide an adequate and reliable level of emergency services to the Sierra County communities of Verdi and Long Valley. Hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:30 PM.

7) CONSENT CALENDAR

All items on the Consent Calendar shall be considered routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member requests that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action. Any item removed from the consent calendar will be considered after the regular business items.

A. Approval of The Minutes as Read/Distributed For 5/18/20

B. Accept finance report/cash balance for June

C. Approve payment of bills

Director Roen made a motion to accept the consent calendar, Director Goicoechea 2nd, motion passed, all in favor.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM.

Jenny Gant, Board Clerk